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SPORTS

# Seven Winchester wrestlers, plus two alternates, advance to the state meet at North Andover

JOE MCCONNELL | SPORTS EDITOR

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The Winchester Red & Black wrestling team poses with the second-place trophy at the conclusion of the Division 1 state sectional meet last Saturday (Feb. 15) at Malden High School. They are, from left, junior captain Ilyas Malik (165), junior captain Eddie Donlon (132), Casey Trumbower (150), Luca Kovacev (175), senior captain Andrew Sim (120), assistant coach Tomi Uyehara, Shaun Garrett (215), Henry Wallace (106), Yusef Ebeid (190), junior captain Kai Napadow Baquero (113), Caleb Kolberg (144), Jack Allen (12
Ryan Errico and assistant coach Anthony Fraumeni. COURTESY PHOTO/YONG SIM

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There's no doubt that the Winchester High School wrestling team (6-3) is getting better under the guidance of Head Coach Ryan Errico.

The Red & Black started the year dropping their first three matches, but since then they rattled off six straight wins to end the regular season with a winning record.

Winchester High wrestler Henry Wallace is standing tall on the podium stand after coming out on top in the 106-pound weight class during the Division 1 state sectional meet at Malden High School last Saturday. COURTESY PHOTO/YONG SIM

The Winchester boys are now in the process of showing the rest of the state just how much talent permeates the program. The postseason got underway last Saturday (Feb. 15) with the Division 1 state sectional meet at Malden High School.

"After a big week of conditioning and drilling, we made a big splash at the Division 1 Central / Metro state sectional tournament," said Assist Coach Vitaly Napadow. "We came in second place after leading t the field of 12 teams going into the semifinals."

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The Red & Black ended up being edged out by Middlesex League rival Arlington, 221.5-182. The Spy Ponders also topped the local wrestlers in the season opener way back on Dec. 18, 33-29, again it was only one of three team losses that they experienced this season.

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The Top 4 wrestlers in each weight class from the sectionals advanced to this week's state divisional meet.

Henry Wallace (106) and Kai Napadow Baquero (113) led the way for Winchester with sectional championships last weekend, while Jack Allen (126), Eddie Donlon (132) and Ilyas Malik (165) picked up second place finishes. Yusef Ebeid (190) and Shaun Garrett (215) came in fourth in their respective weight classes to earn the right to join their aforementioned teammates at the state divisional meet.

Andrew Sim (120) and Luca Kovacev (175) will also go as alternates after finishing fifth in the sectionals.

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Winchester High wrestler Kai Napadow Baquero is front and center after winning the 113-pound weight class during the Division 1 state sectional meet at Malden High School last Saturday. COURTESY PHOTO/YONG SIM

“Having seven wrestlers advance to the state divisional meet, along with two alternates is a huge accomplishment for this year’s team,” said Napadow. “Of course, a big thanks to Ryan (Errico) and his staff for all of their work to get these youngsters to the next round.”

The Division 1 state championships will be held throughout the day on Friday and Saturday (Feb. 21, 22) at North Andover High School. The All-State Meet will then take place the following weekend (Feb. 28, March 1) at Methuen High School for all those who qualify from this weekend’s state divisional meet.

For the record, the final Division 1 Central / Metro state sectional standings are as follows: Arlington (221.5), Winchester (182), Concord-Carlisle (158.5), Brookline (146), Newton South (136), Cambridge (109), Needham (91), Catholic Memorial (88), Newton North (87.5), Waltham (82), (76.5), Lexington (68) and Malden / Everett co-op (53.5).

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## Winchester boys basketball heads to Bridgewater-Raynham for Sweet 16 game after beating Lexington in postseason opener

It was the third meeting this year between Middlesex League boys basketball rivals Lexington (16-5, 11th seed) and Winchester (17-4, 22nd seed). They split the first two during the regular season, thus making this Round of 32 postseason matchup the impromptu rubber game of this year's series, with the

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March 3, 2026

SPORTS

## Winchester wrestling enjoys Top 10 finish at state divisional meet; senior captains move on to All-States

After the Winchester High qualified wrestlers competed hard over two days last weekend (Feb. 20, 21) in the State Division 1 Meet at North Andover High School, Mother Nature gave them a break to rest and recuperate with Monday's blizzard that resulted in two days off from school. There

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## Winchester boys hockey advances to the Sweet 16 after beating Wachusett in the tournament opener

The Winchester High boys hockey team (12-9-2), the 17th seed, edged the 16th-seeded Wachusett Regional Mountaineers (18-2-1), 5-4 in a Round of 32 Division 1 state tournament game at Westborough's Northstar Ice Arena on Feb. 25. The Red & Black will now take on top seed Catholic Memorial (18-2-1)

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February 27, 2026

SPORTS

## With postseason starting Friday night, WHS boys hoop seniors English, Sarpong, Burbine join Middlesex League elite

The Winchester High boys basketball team, the 22nd seed, will take on Middlesex League rival Lexington, the 11th seed, to begin the Division 1 state tournament in the Round of 32 on Friday night, Feb. 27, starting at 6 p.m. These teams are so evenly matched, beginning with the

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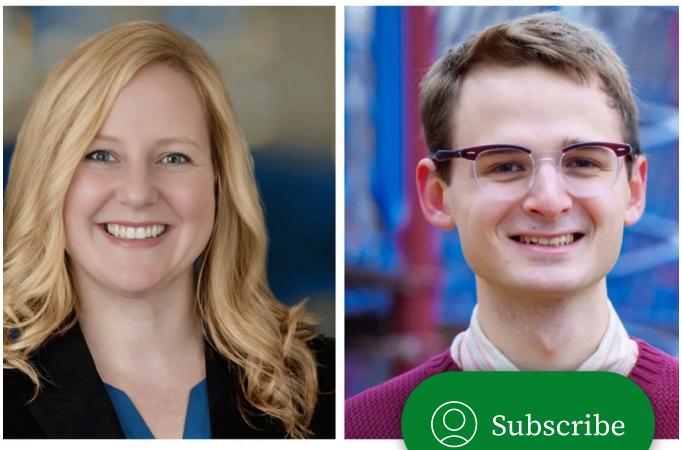


NEWS

## Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice:  To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

March 4, 2026

## Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

FEATURES

## 'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

March 4, 2026

EVENTS

## Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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